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TO : Department of State
INFO : DHAHRAN, CHUSHTM, COMIDEASTFOR
DEPT PASS TO: See listing of posts below
FROM : Amembassy JIDDA
SUBJECT: Joint Weeka No. 12
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DATE: March 27, 1963
DEPARTMENT OF STATE / CDC
REVIEWED BY: J. B. Brown
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MILITARY

Negative

PSYCHOLOGICAL

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PDA/OS
Noted

APR 1 1963

RNA/NE

W. R. Brown

File

APR 15 1963

FILE

GROUP 4
Downgraded at 3-year intervals
Declassified 12 years after date of origin

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Drafted by:

BWMurphy/GLane/RLPhillips:LF 3-27-63

Contents and Classification Approved by:

Clearances:

SECRET

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Jidda

DECLASSIFIED

POLITICAL/ECONOMIC

2. Reaction to Crash King's Plane. Predictably Jidda reaction to news crash of royal Comet provided typical kaleidoscope of current political attitudes. Pre-Nasir Arab nationalists scoffed at initial Saudi claim that crash was result UAR plot and echoed Radio Cairo line that rescue teams hastening reach wreckage largely to safeguard funds, valuables aboard. Conservatives, moderates either condemned "Nasirite" plot or, at least, deplored incident as additional cause of popular uneasiness. So far neither press nor Government has made gesture toward expressing regret deaths four Americans in crash who were long time employees of Saudi Airlines. (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE)

3. Internal Security Measures: Successful Completion of Special U.S. Mobile Training Team Program. On March 24, the Mobile Training Team Program utilizing Special Forces Group and Air Commando Training Team personnel concluded on schedule with joint demonstration and graduation ceremony at Dhahran attended by Chief of Staff of MODA, Chiefs of Saudi Air Force and Navy and by Commander of Parachute Battalion. U.S. Military Training Mission Chief reports that Saudi officials were impressed with professional competence of U.S. training team members and that demonstrations should be considered successful. Mecca Radio March 25 broadcast summary graduation ceremonies including quotes of statement by USMTC Chief. (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE) (SECRET)

Comment: These teams were brought to Saudi Arabia as part of effort provide tangible evidence USG support for Saudi military defense at time when SAG under heavy pressure from abroad. (SECRET)

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5. Volunteer Army Ceremonies in Jidda and Riyadh. On March 23 in Jidda the Amir of Meca presided over ceremony marking completion of the one month training period of second group of volunteers to be trained under SAG's mobilization policy of January. According to press reports 146 volunteers were trained in this second group. The Amir spoke briefly of their duties to protect "God and the Nation." On March 21 a similar group of volunteers completed their training in Riyadh and were reviewed by MODA Prince SULTAN. At the Riyadh ceremony press photographs featured the presence of U.S. military officers at the review. (UNCLASSIFIED)

6. U.S. Naval Visits. Vessels of COMIDEASTOP continuing maintain presence in Jidda area with two vessels coming into Jidda harbor for one day fuel stops March 24 and 25. (SECRET)

7. Diplomatic Changes. March 26 Libyan Ambassador Salim Lutfi al-QADI permanently departed Jidda. Libyan Charge is Haridah al-ZALITNI, Counselor of Embassy. Earlier, March 8 German Ambassador Oswald von RICHTHOFEN departed on leave leaving as Charge Counselor Dr. Wolfgang HAAG. (UNCLASSIFIED)

8. SAG Concludes Negotiations with Aramco and Tapline. On March 24, the petroleum agreement between the Saudi Government and Aramco and Tapline was signed, thus bringing to an end five months of arduous negotiations. The signing, which was attended by Crown Prince FAYSAL, Aramco President BARGER and Tapline President NOBLE, given prominent coverage by the press. No details on the agreement have yet been released. (UNCLASSIFIED)

Comments: Although the agreement has been signed, it has not yet been formally ratified by the Saudi Government. Until such ratification takes place, no publication of the text can be expected. (UNCLASSIFIED)

MILITARY

Negative.

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Jidda

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PSYCHOLOGICAL

4. Yemen-UAR. Continued press play on operational successes of Royalist forces together with down-grading of UAR efforts re YAR and federation talks with Iraq and Syria. Al Bilad, March 20, featured article by Syrian Muhammad al-Farhan, alleges that "Egypt is not interested in destiny of the Arab World, but is interested only in making Egypt appear as the only country in the Middle East that can serve imperialism." Effect of UAR "leadership" in Arab World is "push other Arab countries into the service of American dollar and world Zionism." (UNCLASSIFIED)

5. Local News. Al Bilad, March 20, headlined "Petroleum Agreement to be signed next week. Agreement presents pleasant surprises for the people." Al Madinah, same date, carried front page news item re creation of an Industrial Bank to be composed of "members of Saudi Monetary Agency, Ministry of Finance, Supreme Planning Board, chaired by Ministry of Commerce." Al Bilad, March 19, carried Ministry of Defense and Civil Aviation denial of Cairo claims that two Saudi paratrooper officers had defected to YAR forces. (UNCLASSIFIED)

6. Other News. North African protest to French nuclear testing in Sahara given front-page treatment, as well as President Kennedy's remarks during Central American visit re Russian influence in Cuba. (UNCLASSIFIED)

For the Ambassador:

Nicholas G. Thacher
Nicholas G. Thacher
Counselor of Embassy

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